



Gwinnett County  
Master Gardeners  
Association

**Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2013  
10 a.m.**

**Attending:** Margaret Bergeron, Becky Wolary, Hilary Wilson, Jessica Miller, Gaye Bruce, Alice Verner, Becky Panetta, Wanda Wilburn, Pat Harper, Kathy Parent, Timothy Daly, Carol Hassell

**Approval of March 2013 Minutes** Motion to approve by Becky P; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica.

**Reports of Officers**

**State of the Organization** – Margaret Bergeron

Lots of activities going on. Still have a vacancy on EC; will be addressing this soon.

**Finances and Membership** - Becky Wolary

\$15,000 in bank. By consensus of EC, moved \$10,000 into savings account at bank. This route chose since no fundraisers are planned for next year at this point.

Membership: 197 as of today.

Still owe website revamp invoice.

Hilary asked about amounts still in reserve. Becky stated that \$4,136 from Whole Foods in reserved funds.

What was final result of 2013 garden tour? \$4,256 income – \$894 in expenses = net for garden tour.

**Committee Reports**

**Garden Tour** - Alice Verner and Maggie Howze (absent). Alice again applauded work of committee, volunteers, and tour gardeners.

Margaret commented on the issue of whether to have a rain date in upcoming tours, since tour garden owners have put a lot of money and effort into preparation that it would be shame to have that go to naught. Needs to be discussed.

Margaret has been actively seeking a new garden tour committee head. She has a possible co-chair lined up, but we need to find another. Event is definitely a team effort, although takes good leadership.

Discussion of details for 2014 tour are premature.

**Public Relations** - Jessica Miller

Distribution to all one-month-out deadline pubs have been met.

Relative to Monday's meeting: Tim has found a substitute presenter for Monday's meeting, since scheduled presenter, Dr. Chappell, had an unexpected conflict. Tim has lined up Tony Gobert, assistant to Aaron at Gwinnett Technical College, who will speak on extending your growing season.

Becky W will do presentation on new website. Shirley Bohm will do presentation on her grant project.

**Website** - Becky Wolary and Aaron Tulin (Aaron absent)

Aaron will provide hit count, but was not able to get this done in time for today's meeting.

Becky encouraged all board members to visit and review, sending her any problems or complaints. She emphasized priorities: adding photos, content from members. She also noted that a plug-in exists for a member blog, but it's a lot of work, so want to make sure people are using website before considering whether to implement this feature.

Lessons learned from this website redo: need a committee, in addition to web master; calendar manager; writers for content. For the rest of this year, EC will manage, but next year, the leadership will need to address this area.

**Grants** - Gaye Bruce

18 awarded.

Lilburn Greenway just submitted their full grant expense request yesterday. Vines expenses will probably be in on Monday.

Gaye has completed drafting Jobs Responsibility.

**Education** - Mary Ann Hinds (absent)

Margaret reported that July 20<sup>th</sup> event (Saturday) is birdhouse workshop. 16 places max; still a few slots open.

September 10<sup>th</sup>, Carole Teja will do a hypertufa event with two sessions: 10 am and 2 pm.

Jessica doing wreath making workshop: living wreath, herb wreath, Christmas wreath, basket wreath. Jessica will select a date and convey to Mary Ann. Holiday party is November 18; Jessica suggested silent auction of wreaths, donated or provided, from workshop at party. Pat agreed to help with silent auction.

Kathy has been communicating with Shannon Pable to do advanced landscaping design session. Carole Teja and Kathy working on Gold Star session before end of year on children's gardening.

**Field Trips** - Debbie Parks (absent)

Working on fall field trip sessions. Will supply info soon.

**Hospitality** - Terri Erwin (absent)

All committee activities fine. Working on whether \$10 guest fee at picnic on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, is sufficient to cover expenses. Kathy will do her grant project report, including tour of gardens at McDaniel Farms.

**Volunteers** - Wanda Wilburn

She found all MGEVs to be very cooperative when she called them to work Garden Tour. Suggested that the Volunteer Chair should be brought in earlier for Garden Tour, citing confusion about who was working at sites and who they had committed their effort to. Logistics need to be clarified.

**Welcoming** - Pat Harper

Pat noted that Farmers Markets are good location for informing people about the Master Gardener program.

Committee doing fine job. Margaret noted that she's had good feedback about greeters at monthly meetings.

Becky W reported on new Grayson Farmers Market on Wednesday afternoon-evenings at City Hall. They sold a cookbook there last evening, with projection of selling more in the future.

**Seed Exchange** - Marlene Westrom (absent)

No update.

**Historian** - Becky Panetta

Been sending Becky W pictures for website. She requested pictures from grant projects.

**Adopt a Marathon Mile** – Margaret Bergeron

Applied, but the organizers changed their criteria and we didn't fit the new criteria.

**Intern (Trainee) Breakfast** - Karen McGinty (absent)

No report.

**Extension Office** Updates

Tim: Talked about Farmers Markets. Noted the markets have been successful; next year they want to implement changes to make them more self reliant, that is, managed and handled by MGEVs.

Reported on background checks; 26 other states do background checks. Some charge MGs to do checks. GA does not do this. Background check is valid only when working on MGEV, Cooperative Extension-approved projects or events. He stated that GA is ahead on this.

Tim listed the 5 Initiatives that all projects and activities will fall under:

- Environmental Stewardship

- Gardening with youth
- Value of landscaping
- Backyard food production
- Quality of life

Kathy noted these will be the framework for all activities – all of which must be pre-approved by the Extension office.

Tim asked that anyone interested in helping with office work, writing factsheets, etc., to let him know.

Applications for next year's Master Gardener Trainee class will go out in August.

### **Weed & Feeds**

Becky W reported at Jackie's request that these events have been a great success. At Sonya's home, 14 MGEVs and trainees pitched in and accomplished a great deal.

### **New Business**

#### **Scholarship Funding**

Carol asked for board to consider funding grant we have had in past at Gwinnett Tech. Margaret provided background and current information: Have had Helen Dyer Scholarship Award in past with only \$5 left at Gwinnett Tech. If we wish, we can change name to GCMGA Scholarship Award. She was told the Fall grant period is already closed. If we get fund in place in Oct. scholarship will be used for Spring. Margaret recounted the criteria for the initial scholarship. Minimum scholarship is \$250. We can make for any amount we want. Can change the criteria. GT will work with us in this regard.

Jessica and Carol both requested that the board fund a donation to the Georgia Master Gardener Association scholarship fund. Jessica reported on the GMG Association scholarship fund. She recapped the program currently underway; called attention to the honor roll of giving.

Carol made a motion; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gaye to contribute \$1,000 to the scholarship at Gwinnett Tech, and to donate \$500 to the GMG fund. Discussion: Pat wanted to separate into two motions, although the original motion was on the floor. Becky wants to stipulate that GC scholarship be two \$500 awards; renamed GCMGA. And \$500 for GMG fund. Funds will be from reserved funds. Unanimously approved.

Discussion about various means of funding scholarship fund.

**Adjournment at 11:33 am by Margaret.**